

Bandit Holds Up 6 in Park Row Game for \$600

Daring Robbery Occurs Next Door to Department of Justice, Where Two Detectives Were on Duty

Lined Up Against Wall

"Shell Out!" Is Command of Intruder at the Rooms of Neptune Association

A short, stocky man, whose face was masked with a handkerchief and who carried a blue steel revolver, held up six members of the Neptune Association about 10 p. m. yesterday as they sat playing cards in their rooms on the fourteenth floor of the Park Row Building, next door to the headquarters of the Department of Justice, where two Federal detectives sat waiting for something to turn up.

He got about \$600. He worked fast and obviously was nervous. His voice trembled somewhat and so did his hands, to the trepidation of those within the radius of his revolver swing. It was his nervousness which most impressed the six nautical officers as they looked up from their cards at the sound of the opening door and saw the masked figure confronting them.

"Line up there," said the intruder, waving his revolver toward the rear wall and stammering a little in his opening speech. "Line up and shell out!"

The card players lined up and began shelling out. One of them, Louis Snyder, began to get nervous himself when he saw how the bandit's trigger finger was twitching. Desirous of avoiding offense at any cost, Snyder began methodically to strip himself of valuables, starting with his scarf.

"Don't want that," said the robber curtly. "Keep it. I got no time to fuss with trash. Keep it. What I want is the jack."

The officers threw down their wallets and at the command of the intruder kicked them toward him.

"Careful now," he rasped out once during the process. "You make a wrong move and I'll shoot. I need the dough."

Pocketing the proceeds of his raid, he stepped to the door.

"Don't try to follow me," he advised. "You wait here. Any one that pokes his head out is going to get it blown off."

Police Surround Building

He stepped out into the hall and closed the door gently behind him. That was the last seen of him. Rupert Baird, the elevator operator on right duty, was positive that the man had not passed him and could not have reached the street floor without doing so.

About ten minutes passed before any of the victims decided it would be healthy to spread an alarm. Then they emerged in a body and pressed the button on the side of the elevator shaft until Baird came up with a rush in his car.

The police were informed of the robbery, and within twenty minutes after the hold-up man departed the building was surrounded by uniformed men from the Oak Street police station and detectives were searching every floor in the belief that he still might be concealed somewhere in the building.

Rode Up in Elevator

Baird saw him, it is thought, when he entered the building, and so did Edward Jordan, a member of the Neptune Association. The hold-up man, or one of about the same build and about equally nervous, rode up in the elevator with Baird just before Jordan who had been playing cards, stepped out to get a package of cigarettes.

Jordan passed the newcomer in the hall and the stocky stranger asked him if they were still playing inside. Jordan said that the game was still on and the stranger turned to the elevator operator.

"You come right back," he said, "as soon as you have taken this man down, I'll want you right away."

This request was ignored by Baird. "That fellow's got a nerve," said he to Jordan as they started down. "He thinks I got nothin' to do but park my car up at the fourteenth floor waitin' fer him, I suppose. Nothin' doin'."

That's why Baird wasn't in on the hold-up.

Henry P. Fletcher Named Ambassador to Belgium

Suggestion of Clash Between Under Secretary and Hughes Denied at State Department

From The Tribune's Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, Nov. 19.—The post of American Ambassador to Belgium has been tendered to Henry P. Fletcher, Under Secretary of State, and has been accepted, to become effective upon the conclusion of the sessions of the Conference on the Limitation of Armaments now in session.

Mr. Fletcher will be succeeded in the State Department post by Walter E. Brown, of Toledo, Ohio, who is the President's personal representative and chairman of the joint Congressional committee on reorganization of the government departments.

One Killed, Three Hurt When Auto Elevator Falls

Cable Snaps and Carrier Drops to Basement; Firemen Give Aid

When the cable of an auto elevator in the garage of Alfred J. Higgins, at 614-616 West 138th Street, snapped yesterday one man was killed and three others seriously injured. The elevator had taken on an automobile at the fifth floor and was being lowered to the street floor when the cable gave way and the carrier crashed to the basement.

James McKeon, fifty years old, of 170 West Sixty-fifth Street, operator of the car, was killed. He was crushed between the wall of the shaft and the auto, which was thrown against him as it crashed in the basement. The injured, who were taken to the Knickerbocker Hospital by Drs. White and Martin, are:

Charles Conicco, of 253 West Sixty-eighth Street, driver of the auto; Charles McCabe, of 2159 Eighth Avenue, another chauffeur, and George Lange, of 625 East 141st Street, a garage employee.

Firemen attached to Hook and Ladder Company 21 spent half an hour extricating the men. The auto and the elevator were both badly damaged.

Julius W. Meyers, of 2801 Jerome Avenue, head of the garage company, said the elevator had been repaired last week at a cost of \$1,500 and had been pronounced serviceable by city inspectors.

An investigation is being made by the police of the West 135th Street station.

"Bluebeard's" Sudden Wealth Cited in Court

Refuses to Tell How He Came by Money He Squandered After Woman Disappeared

Special Cable to The Tribune

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VERSAILLES, Nov. 19.—The strongest link in the chain of circumstantial evidence with which the state is trying to fasten on Henri Landru proof that he put to death ten females was forged to-day, when evidence was introduced regarding Mile. Marie Therese Marchadier, the last alleged victim of the "Bluebeard of Gambais."

Landru did not deny having met Mile. Marchadier on Christmas, 1918, after which she accompanied him to the Gambais villa on January 13. Evidence to-day showed that "Bluebeard" at that time was virtually without funds. He is alleged to have left Gambais alone on January 14, however, and to have spent nearly a thousand francs between then and January 17. The bones of the woman's two dogs were found in the garden of the villa. Landru admitted this afternoon that he killed them, but said he strangled them at the request of Mile. Marchadier.

Landru testified that Mile. Marchadier remained several days at the villa and then left him, going to relations in Paris. He declined to tell how he came into possession of the money and also personal documents of his fiancée. The belief of those who are watching the trial is that Landru has made a poor showing and that his only hope is that Gaffieri, his counsel, who is one of the cleverest criminal lawyers in France, is in possession of facts which he has thus far withheld.

Boy Accidentally Killed By Brother Cleaning Gun

CAMDEN, N. J., Nov. 19.—Herman Berg, eleven years old, was accidentally shot and killed in his home at Lindenwald to-day by his sixteen-year-old brother, Harry.

Harry was cleaning the gun in the kitchen preparatory to a hunting trip. Herman entered from the pantry. The gun exploded and the shot struck the boy in the stomach.

Eight Hurt in Blaze Laid to Still Explosion

(Continued from page one)

and seen the sudden burst of smoke that came from the rear windows of the building. He relieved Virginia of her burden and helped get the entire family to the street.

Another patrolman had turned in an alarm and Hook and Ladder Company 5 already was drawing up in front of the house, the firemen leaping from the running board, clutching their hooks and scaling ladders.

Smoke Smells of Alcohol

Believing that several persons still were in the burning building, Captain Michael Saalinger and Lieutenant Frank Trefcar, of this company, led their men into the hallway and up the stairs through the smoke. Captain Saalinger said that the smoke smelled strongly of alcohol and in this he was confirmed by Battalion Chief George Bauer.

The firemen said that on entering the kitchen they saw an array of milk cans, several five-gallon tins and an ash can which had been converted into what looked like a still, beneath part of which the gas range burners were blazing merrily.

As the firemen entered the room one of the milk cans on the stove set or blew up, spraying them and the whole room with blazing fluid. Trefcar and Burke were knocked down and the coats of all of the firemen began to smoulder in dozens of places.

Burke, Donohue and Jassinsky staggered to a rear window. A wall of the floor cut them off from their companions and from the exit to the

kitchen. A draught from the hall sent the flames leaping toward them and they clambered out to the window sill.

The window sill overhangs the roof of an extension, on which were Firemen Colligan and Egan, each of them with a scaling ladder. From the roof of the extension they could not reach any projection upon which to catch the hooks of their scaling ladders, but by holding the slender steel rods upright with both hands above their heads, they could bring the tops within a few feet of the window sill on which the three firemen crouched, Burke and Donohue, who were almost unconscious from pain, being supported by Jassinsky.

"Jump aboard!" shouted Colligan. "We can hold you!"

It seemed impossible, but they did it. Somehow, Jassinsky assisted his companions each to a perch on the hook end of a scaling ladder and somehow Colligan and Egan held those ladders steady and lowered them gradually to the roof of the extension with their human burdens.

When Donohue and Burke were in safety, Jassinsky reached the lower roof by the same means. After assisting the three to the street, Colligan and Egan went back to their posts to see if any one else needed their assistance. Colligan stepped through a skylight. He was bruised and cut but remained on duty.

Before the other members of the hook and ladder company had been driven to the street, engine companies arrived and several streams of water drowned out the fire in short order.

The wreckage of the contrivance which the firemen believe to be a still was turned over to the police and is being held at the Charles Street police station pending an investigation by the Fire Marshal. The damage done by flame which shot up in the middle of the fire was estimated at \$500.

Fireman Edward McConville, who jumped from a window when the ex-

plosion occurred in the kitchen, was slightly bruised.

Fire Rages, but Broadway Fails to Pay Least Heed

Traffic Continues as Usual at Times Square, and Crowds Rush Along During Blaze

There was a raging fire last night at 1458 Broadway, just south of the Knickerbocker Building at Forty-second Street. It raged because, although it was a mean kind of fire as firemen size them up, it couldn't make much of a dent on Times Square.

It raged from a little after 10 o'clock until after 11, and in all that time it didn't succeed in interrupting traffic, having the reserves called out, or even interfering to any extent with the Saturday night games in Jack Doyle's billiard parlors, which are right over where the fire was and were filled with smoke and firemen.

Even Young's hat store and the St.

Regia restaurant, under the eopings of whose show windows the fire started in skeins of electric wires, kept right on doing business. The only noticeable effect of the fire in those places was that young men who were trying on hats ran out to see the fire without stopping to pay, and several thrifty customers of the restaurant also went out hurriedly without stopping at the cashier's desk.

Only two patrolmen, one of them a traffic man, were on duty at Broadway and Forty-second Street. The traffic man kept vehicles moving almost with his usual regularity in spite of the fact that five fire engines, three hook and ladder trucks, a water tower, two battalion chiefs' cars, one deputy chief's and that of Joe Martin, acting chief of the Fire Department, were cluttering up the landscape.

His fellow policeman managed somehow to keep the crowd out of the way of the firemen and keep enough of the throng on the sidewalk so that automobiles and streetcars could follow their accustomed routes.

It was no wonder the fire raged. It managed, according to estimates, to do about \$5,000 damage.

Finger Prints in Woman's Murder Absolve Prisoner

Peddler Released by Mineola Police After Assisting in Inquiry; Recluse Beaten on Head, Autopsy Shows

MINEOLA, L. I., Nov. 19.—Joseph Kaufman, the peddler, who was taken into custody last night in connection with the murder of Mrs. Elizabeth Maier, was released by the authorities to-night. Finger prints found on cockery and articles of furniture in the slain widow's home are not those of Kaufman, experts established.

Kaufman is the last person located by the authorities who saw Mrs. Maier alive. He is said to be a familiar figure

in the vicinity and has made periodic visits to homes for many years selling blankets.

Kaufman told the police that the white cloth found knotted about the neck of the slain woman, at first thought to have been put there by her slayer, really was used by Mrs. Maier as a hiding place for money. Detectives who examined the cloth found a small pocket sewed in it.

An autopsy was performed this afternoon which disclosed that the woman had been struck over the head several times before she was choked to death. In the opinion of the Coroner's physician the cloth about her neck had no part in her death.

Assistant District Attorney Elvin N. Edwards has been assigned to the case by District Attorney Weeks. Mr. Edwards has expressed the belief that the murder may have been committed by some one who knew the old recluse well, as she would never have opened the door to one not of her acquaintance. Examination of the lock on the door failed to show that it had been forced.

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